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THE COUNTRY COURIER,
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

By a paragraph from the National Intelligencer, which we published on Friday, it would seem that two very interesting subjects are in discussion before the several houses of Congress—in the senate, a proposition to reduce the army, and in the house of representatives, a proposition to repeal the internal revenue. Mr. Gales calls this an "unexpected turn" to the public business; and he seems to think that it would be more profitable, if the national legislature had been occupied "in discussing the variety of important measures which have been matured for their consideration." Now, he goes still further, and states it as his opinion, that neither of these propositions will be adopted this session.

With regard to the probability or improbability of these measures being carried, we know nothing. This gentleman's opinion with regard to the merit or demerit of any measure, may be, for aught we know, entitled to much weight and consideration; but, as he has not a constitutional veto, we take it for granted, it is not absolutely decisive. And as we probably view some of the variety of business which has been matured for Congress to pass, in a less favourable light than Mr. Gales does, we are not disposed to despair of the fate of the two propositions.

The internal revenue presses very hard upon the community. Taxed indirectly as the country is, and depressed as all the common business of life is, it is burthensome to a high degree to be obliged to pay direct taxes on so many of the necessities, as well as conveniences of life. It is true, the nation is deeply in debt, but that debt cannot be paid off in a year or in ten years—we doubt whether the country will ever be free from debt; for such is the nature of man, and the experience of nations, that governments are much more successful in contriving ways and means to plunge deeper and deeper into debt, than to practise the economy and prudence which are necessary to pay off old scores. The national government collect a vast revenue. But the difficulty is, they have encreased their expenses so enormously, that they exhaust a large proportion of their income in that way, and, of course have but a small surplus for their creditors. If the administration would go seriously to work to retrench their expenditures, and reduce their extravagant list of place-men and treasury dependents, and save, for the benefit of the "Sinking Fund," the large amount squandered in pampering parasites, and purchasing popularity, and it shall then appear to be necessary to the justice or credit of the nation, that direct taxes should be laid, impoverished and broken down as the people are, we have no doubt they would submit without repining to the exactions. But it is not in the nature of things, that they should pa-

tiently endure such burthens as they now labor under, when they are become convinced that the money thus drawn from their labours, is applied to such unworthy purposes as the paying off the various objects of Executive bounty and patronage.

Do the farmers and mechanics and labouring men of the country feel disposed to pay inordinate taxes on so many subjects of taxation, to build and endow a national university—for encamping and drilling the militia—or to swell the catalogue of debtors and delinquents, already grown to a most enormous size? Before they decide in favor of the administration in these particulars, let them look at least at the list of names which stand on the treasury books as in arrear to the government, and they will hesitate about encreasing the number. By a return made to the present session of congress, it appears there are very little short of seven hundred of these debtors and delinquents; and the sums set to their names make a formidable aggregate.

As for the army, there is not the least possible advantage in maintaining it at its present size. Ten thousand men are many more than are useful or necessary. It is doubtless proper to keep a number of men in the forts and garrisons in certain parts of the country, particularly between us and the Indians. A small body, however, would be sufficient for this purpose; and we conceive that little if any thing more is necessary. There is not the least reason to expect a war with any civilized power at present—probably not before the men now in the army will have died away, or been discharged. What possible use is there then, in maintaining at so many millions of dollars annually, a useless military force? There is no imaginable advantage in it, except that it increases the catalogue of patronage, and supports more troops for the cabinet popularity. The expenses of the military establishment, a great proportion of which, in our opinion, is worse than useless, if applied to the payment of the national debt, would go far towards its extinguishment in due time—perhaps before we shall be plunged into another war to increase the weight of that "mighty millstone" upon the public neck. Whether the above measures are carried or not, we think Congress can scarcely occupy their time in a more profitable manner.

[Since the above was in type, it appears that the motion for the repeal of the internal taxes has been postponed indefinitely.]

According to the report of the commissioners, it is calculated that the cost of the canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson, will not exceed 4,806,788 dollars.

Extract of a letter to a mercantile house in this city, dated

"BORDEAUX, Jan. 4.

"Since mine of the 2d inst. I have sold your cotton, at 172 francs, in bond. I am sorry in being obliged to sell it so low—but

the market is falling, and every body is anxious to sell. Good New Orleans is offered at 200 francs, duty paid."

Another, same date.

"The Superior being detained by contrary winds, we have still an opportunity to inform you that cotton begins to be in demand—400 bags Georgia Upland at Havre. sold at 225. It has had some influence here—180 bags inferior quality Georgia sold at 195."

The works of President Dwight.—It is stated in the Commercial Herald, that "Proposals have been issued for printing by subscription, *A System of Divinity*, in a series of Sermons, by the Rev. Dr. Dwight.

STATE OF NEW-YORK. GENERAL ORDERS.

Head Quarters, Albany, }
February 20, 1817. }

On the eve of his separation from the officers and soldiers of the militia, the commander in chief offers a sincere acknowledgment for the confidence and support he has always received from them, and for the patriotism they have exhibited in the whole course of the late war. Deeply sensible how much the subordination and zeal of the militia of this state has contributed to advance its honour and fame, he would do injustice to himself and them were he not on this occasion publicly to proclaim his high sense of gratitude.

The conduct displayed at Plattsburgh, Sacket's Harbor, and on the Niagara frontier, and especially in the sortie from Fort Erie, has given the military of this state a high rank amongst the bravest defenders of the country. The commander in chief in treats them to cherish and transmit to posterity that patriotic spirit which animated them to such noble deeds.

He will ever retain a lively recollection of their services in the most trying periods, and of the respect and regard he has uniformly received from them, and with the most devout prayers for the future prosperity and happiness of his fellow officers and soldiers of the militia of the state of New-York, he bids them an affectionate farewell.

By order of the Commander in Chief,
SOL VAN RENSSELAER,
Adjutant General.

From the Baltimore Patriot.

By the article under the New-Orleans head, it will be seen that the celebrated Dr. William D. Robinson was not killed at the battle of Boquilla, but is a prisoner and in irons. He will be fortunate indeed if he escapes from such an enemy as he has to deal with.

NEW-ORLEANS, Jan. 24.

From Vera Cruz—A gentleman who ar-

rived in the schooner Morgiana, from Vera Cruz, from whence she sailed the 7th January, confirms the news lately received here from Baltimore, of the fall of Boquilla. Nautla, a post about 25 miles to the westward of Boquilla, was taken by the patriots.

An hermaphrodite brig was lying at Vera Cruz. From her description she must be the Edward, which some months ago sailed from this port with a cargo of merchandize for Boquilla, at which place she was taken. The captain and crew were ashore, assisting in the defence of the place, which they did in a most gallant manner, and most of them, with the captain, are said to have been killed.—Mr. Robinson was not killed, but a prisoner and in irons.

A convoy with a large quantity of specie was about sailing from Vera Cruz for Havana.

The schr. North Star, which sailed from the Balize the day before the Morgiana, bound to Vera Cruz, had not been heard of.—She is supposed to have perished in a squal.

Jan. 25—We are informed that Boquilla de Pedra noticed in our paper of yesterday as having been captured by the royalists, affords no harbor, but has heretofore served as a place of deposit for supplies to the republicans—lat. 19, 57, long. 96, 45. Being surrounded by the revolutionists, it is supposed the royalists cannot maintain the post.

If it be true, as stated, that the patriots have got possession of Nautla, the exchange is an excellent one—Tacolata, the harbor, affording good anchorage, and the fort, protection to shipping.

We understand that the cargo of the Edward was safely landed previous to her capture and carried into the interior; and that insurance has been effected on the vessel.

On the payment of the first instalment of the U. S. Bank at Cincinnati, a considerable surplus of specie was received: on the payment of the second, double the amount required by the law.—*Vir. Pat.*

CHARLESTON, Feb. 17.

Latest from England.—By the British brig John M'Cammon, Capt. Larmour, arrived at this port yesterday afternoon, in 63 days from Belfast, we have received Belfast papers to the 15th, containing London dates to the 10th December, inclusive.

A London paper of the 20th Nov. contains a decree of the king of the Two Sicilies, granting a bounty of three carlinos per measure, for all grain imported into his capital from abroad, between the 15th Nov. 1816, and the 15th of May, 1817—provided it be of receivable and mercantile quality.

The London Packet of the 25th November, notifies that the Prince Regent has ap-

proved of Mr. Auldjo, as American Consul at Cowes.

Feb. 18.—Later still from England.—The Hamburg ship Cuba, arrived last evening. left Portsmouth, (Eng.) about the 8th of Jan. but brings no English papers. The supercargo was in London on the second of that month, and informs us that there was no news of any moment in Europe at that date. All was quiet in London; the riot of the 2d of December was almost forgotten.

BOSTON, Feb. 24.

At 8 o'clock last night, the wind was quite moderate from SW.; at 10, from W. to NW. —At 2, this morning a very severe gale commenced from N. NE. with snow.

Yesterday several vessels came up, and anchored this side of fort Independence; and as a channel had been made through the ice from the 74, in the stream to long wharf, and thence to Dorchester flats, it was hoped the detached field of ice would have passed down with the ebb of the tide, and allowed vessels below an opportunity of coming up and anchoring off long wharf. The detached ice did not, however, go down; and the storm of this morning has, doubtless, tended to increase the ice in the harbour.

Of the fate of the vessels below we have no particulars, the snow drives so thick that one can see but a little distance.—The vessels in Nantasket Roads have much more sea room than those higher up;—and as the wind blows in shore, should any of the vessels below drift from their anchorage they must drive upon the ice.

Great anxiety exists as to the fate of vessels below, and upon the coast.

Half past 11 A. M.—The schooner Swiftsure, from Charleston, came up last night through the channel broke in the ice, and reached Long Wharf; a schooner, said to be from Baltimore, also came up, and is now in the ice between Long and India Wharfs; and several chebeca boats with fish, reached Long Wharf. The wind is now NE. and strong, with snow.

A Pottery was last night consumed by fire in Cambridge, near Cragies Bridge.

The ship Isabella Henderson, Dame, 36 days from New-Orleans, arrived at Gibraltar, 10th Dec.; also the U. States ship Alert, 45 days from New-York, and sailed same day for Malaga. The brig Funda, arrived in 22 days from Philadelphia.

A letter from Gibraltar, (received at the M. C. H.) says—"The king of Spain has passed an edict, prohibiting the importation into his dominions, of any cotton goods, unless introduced by the Phillippin Island Company, to take effect 1st of Jan. Some think it will, others that it will not be enforced—smuggling will undoubtedly continue."

Prices at Gibraltar, Dec. 29.—Flour 16,

rice 6 l 2 a 7, tobacco, 30 a 32, pipe staves, 65, tar 2 a 2 75, fish 3 50 a 4.

Arrived below yesterday, brig Hope, Landers, Havanna 23 days; schr. Corrinna, Hammond, from New-Orleans, via Plymouth.

The brig Romp, Davis, from La Guira, arrived at Marblehead on Saturday evening last, bound to Boston. Sailed Jan. 17, in co with brig America, Howard, for Philad. Left, schr. Hook, Williams, of Alexandria. Jan. 24, the S. E. part of St. Domingo being NNE. distance 5 leagues, parted with brig America; the A. bearing up for the Crooked Island passage. Feb. 21, Nantucket Shoals bearing W. distant 14 miles, spoke brig General Lincoln, Swan, 84 days from Africa for Boston, very short of provisions, supplied her. The Romp has experienced very severe weather on the coast. Capt. D. says, at the time he left La Guira, the affairs of the country remained in a very confused state and no such thing as obtaining correct information. Captain Swan, of the Gen. Lincoln, gave Capt. D. a memorandum, that he was 84 days from Princes Island, and 30 from Bermuda; have experienced the most tremendous weather, the oldest sailor on board ever knew—had been twice blown off the coast—short of provisions, and crew nearly exhausted—the ship also had suffered much in sails and spars.

Two sleighs arrived on Sunday evening last at the Branch Bank in this town, bringing more than a ton weight of specie, from Portland and Portsmouth, it being the instalments paid at those places, of the capital stock of the Bank of the United States.—They were fortunate in reaching town before the sleighing was entirely gone. The travelling yesterday we understand was very heavy.—*Bost. D. Adv.*

Further selections from English papers.

LONDON, Dec. 2.

Silver has fallen one halfpenny per ounce, this week, dollars being now at 4s. 10d.; standard silver at 4s. 11d. per ounce. Gold remains as before, /3 13s. 6d. per ounce.

By advices from Naples, it appears that the Neapolitan Government have issued a decree, proposing a liberal bounty for the importation of wheat and other grain of a good quality. The act is to be in force from the 15th of Nov. 1816, to the 15th of May 1817.

Mr. Boupland, the botanist and companion of Humboldt in Spanish America, lately sailed for Buenos Ayres, accompanied by a number of French officers.

The Marquis of Stafford, and his neighbor Mr. Swinnerton have given employment to every man desirous of work, upon their estates in Staffordshire, at the rate of 10s. per week; his lordship also distributes bread and

beer to 100 persons every day, at Trentham Gate, an example worthy of imitation.

COURT MARTIAL.

Horse-Guards, Nov. 18.

Gaming.—At a general court-martial, held at Cambray, in France, on the 23d Sept. 1816, and continued by adjournment, to the 28th of the same month, lieut. the hon. Augustus Stanhope, of the 12th regiment of light dragoons, was arraigned upon the under mentioned charge—viz :

“ For behaving in a scandalous manner, such as is unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman, in conspiring with certain other persons, to draw in, and seduce Lord Beauchamp, to game and play with them, for the purpose of gain and advantage ; and that in pursuance of such conspiracy, he, lieutenant Stanhope, (having engaged Lord Beauchamp to come to his quarters in Paris, on Sunday, the 17th day of March, 1816, upon an invitation to dine with him,) did, in company and in concert with such other persons, draw in, seduce, and prevail upon Lord Beauchamp, to play with them at a certain game of chance, with cards, for very high stakes, whereby, on an account kept by them, lieut. Stanhope and the said other persons, or one of them of the losses and gains in the course of the play, he, lieut. Stanhope, claimed to have won of Lord Beauchamp, the sum of £8000 and upwards, and the said other person claimed to have won of Lord Beauchamp the farther sum of £7000 and upwards.

“ That in further pursuance of the said concert and conspiracy, he, Lord Beauchamp, at the same time and place, was required by Lieut. Stanhope to write and sign two several promissory notes, or engagements, to pay at the expiration of three years, the said several sums of money, so claimed to have been won of him, Lord Beauchamp, by lieutenant Stanhope, and the said persons respectively.

“ That the said Lord Beauchamp was at that time about sixteen years of age, ignorant of and unused to play, and affected by the wine he had been prevailed upon to take, by the parties.”

Upon which charge, the court came to the following decision :

“ The court having maturely and deliberately considered the charge exhibited against lieutenant the honorable Augustus Stanhope, do sentence him to be discharged his majesty's service accordingly.”

His royal highness the Prince Regent has been pleased, in the name and on the behalf of his majesty, to approve and confirm the finding and sentence of the court, and the commander in chief directs, that the foregoing charge preferred against lieutenant the honorable Augustus Stanhope, of the 12th light dragoons, together with the finding and sentence of the court, shall be entered in the

general order book, and read at the head of every regiment in his majesty's service.

By command of his royal highness
the commander in chief,

HARRY CALVERT,
Adjutant general.

Letters from Bilboa, dated the 15th inst. mention that king Ferdinand VII's prohibitory decree relating to cotton goods is to extend to what are called the exempt provinces, meaning those of Biscay, which from their more free constitution, were not quite so liable to be injured by the arbitrary acts of Spanish sovereigns. The same letters add, that this measure is intended as a death-blow to British trade, as it is chiefly from that channel the above descriptions of goods is derived.

Private letters from Spain inform us, that col. Choolin, and twelve others, were under close confinement in the fortress of Pampeluna, and in daily expectation of being brought out into the public square for execution. It is said they are implicated in an extensive revolution forming in Spain, that their correspondence was intercepted, and part of the ramifications of the plot discovered. This event has tended greatly to disturb king Ferdinand's honeymen, as he perceives he is not so firmly seated in the hearts of his subjects, as his flatterers had led him to believe.

We lately announced, that the rate of interest on the Exchequer Bills would be altered from 3 1-4d. to 3d. by which there would be a great saving to the public ; we are happy to say they are issued, and without producing any evil effect whatever. The rate of interest is now 4l. 11s. per cent. per annum, in place of 5l. per cent. and such is the demand for government securities in the City, from the overflow of capital, that they still bear a premium of 5 and 6 per cent.

The donation of 5,000l. which the Prince Regent has graciously directed to be made from the funds at the disposal of his Majesty, towards the relief of the poor in Spitalfields and its vicinity, is a most benevolent and reasonable exercise of royal munificence.—It is given, not from the purse of the public, as in the year 1800, but from funds at the disposal of his Majesty.

As a material step towards alleviating the distresses of the poor, it is recommended to the consideration of government, to reduce the duty on raw silk. No branch of our manufactures has so severely felt the present distress as the silk trade. Hence the priority in suffering which is unhappily claimed by the district of Spitalfields.

A gentleman of Dublin has brought to perfection a lock and key, for which he has received a patent. Should any attempt be made to violate the lock, this ingenious invention defeats the objects, and detects the

persons, by giving an alarm, which is heard at a considerable distance.

LONDON, Dec. 27.

The ship *Galen*, has arrived at this port in 20 days from Boston; and the ship *Robert Burns*, *Parsons*, from New-York, at Liverpool.

The Americans had but just received notice of the opening of our ports for the importation of corn when the last advices left that country; and, considering the speculative turn of American merchants in general, there can be no doubt but that they will eagerly avail themselves of the information, and make shipments for England without delay. Just as the *Galen*, which reached London in 20 days, was standing out to sea, a boat came off to her, with advice that intelligence had been received from England, which left no doubt of the opening of our ports. The *Galen* left Boston on the 26th of November and was in the Channel on the 12th instant, after a very rough passage. Letters have also been brought by the *Robert Burns* from New-York, but they are not of a later date than those before received. Many different accounts are given respecting the crops of wheat, &c.; from which we collect that they are but of middling qualities, and it is ascertained that the crops of Indian corn had failed. Cotton had produced an average crop, but the quality very indifferent, but unusually short staple.

LONDON, Dec. 28.

It has been stated that the Ministers had resolved to borrow fifteen millions for the ensuing year, and to charge the interest upon the Sinking Fund. If this report had originated otherwise than with the avowed adherents of Opposition, we should have suspected, that Ministers themselves had contributed to its circulation, so well adapted is it to their purposes; for if they shall, propose to raise a loan of five millions, and to charge the interest in this way, they may expatiate upon the exaggerations, by which their adversaries endeavour to alarm the public, and then, with much complacency, call upon us, to admire their moderation, and rejoice at the good fortune of the country, since only one third of what has been so shamefully predicted will be required for the ensuing year? Nor is it absolutely certain, that these inveterate enemies of Ministers have not been rendered their inadvertent instrument as pieces of base coin are often put into honest men's pockets, in order that they may become the utterers of them. Perhaps if the information were well preceded, and followed by communications of their own friends, the assertion would not be severely scrupled, which should be involved in some judicious compliment. That a loan of half the alleged amount will be ventured upon, a few people will credit. That the interest of whatsoever

is borrowed is intended to be secured upon the Sinking Fund, we can readily suppose, because the public have but lately shewn themselves attentive to matters of Finance, and, if new taxes are not demanded the propriety of the expenditure, which renders borrowing necessary, may be less questioned than usual. We hope, however, that before one mode of providing for expenditure be compared with another, strict proof will be required of the necessity for the expenditure itself. In this consideration of the supplies we are much mistaken if Ways and Means will not for once be found;—if after all the cessation of extraordinary expenditure which should surely be allowed a place among the other effects of "a transition from war to peace," the ordinary expenditure will not bear such a reduction, as will provide for the interest of a new loan. Of ways and means the worst are new taxes; the next in the scale of diminishing evil is the Sinking Fund: the rational, the honest and the absolutely good is retrenchment. Until this has reached such an amount as to leave no absurdity in the red book, neither one new tax, nor any application to the Sinking Fund, will, we hope, be thought of by Parliament. This Fund differs from any other property of the public only as what is due to any man differs from what he has actually in his pocket.—*M. Herald*.

English Stocks—Consuls shut. reduced, 62 1-2 3-4—4 per Cents 78 5-4, 5 per Cents shut.

From a Falmouth Paper of Dec. 17.

ANOTHER PROPHET.

The well known Adam Muller, the soothsayer, as he calls himself, stopped Nov. 24th at Erfurt, on his way to Berlin. The man confides entirely in his reputation, has no passport with him, but shews, in order to Legitimate himself, letters from several German Sovereigns.

The tranquility of Europe, he says, will not last longer than the summer of 1817, when, through the instigation of the French, the war will again break out, but France will be overpowered by the Victorious Allies, and the Monarchy will be destroyed by being divided among different branches.

PARIS, Jan. 2.

According to letters from Marseilles, it appears that the Dey of Algiers labours diligently in refitting his fleet and re-establishing the marine. He has lately bought, for about 50 thousand piasters, a two decked ship, which had come from Sweden, with all its cargo, consisting of wood and iron.

Extract from a Bordeaux Price Current of January 4th, 1817, for Articles in Bond.
Ashes, Pot, 68f. 40 c. to 68. 50 per quintal,
do. Pearl, 68 to 70, and in demand.
Cotton, Sea-Island, 280 to 295 per quintal
do. Upland 170 to 195 do.

do. New-Orleans,	175 to 200	do.
Rice, (new)	48 to 53	do.
do. (old)	38 to 44	do.
Tobacco (Virg.)	75 to 130	do.
do. (Carolina)	60 to 120	do.
Wheat per hectolitre,	36 per 154 to 158 lbs.	
Brandy, 4th Proof,	780 to 800 per 50 Velts.	

Letters from Bordeaux, of the 6th of January, quote Flour, at 14 dollars per barrel.

PARMA, Dec. 16.—A report prevails, that in the beginning of January our Sovereign (the Ex-Empress Maria Louisa) will set out for Vienna, where it is said she has been called by her august father. It is affirmed that this journey was the object of the mission of Field-Marshal Nieperg to the Court of Vienna, where he had the most flattering reception.

Dec. 26.—They write from Rome that the misery is very great in that city; it gives an opportunity for the exercise of the benevolence of King Charles the Fourth and the Queen of Etruria, to whom the poor class are much indebted.

Money is very scarce at Lisbon; this is attributed to the departure of the principal families, and of a great number of the rich to the Brazils.

SPEZZIO, Dec. 18.—Two English and two American men of war are now in our port.—The crews of each of those vessels have continual and violent disputes, whenever they meet each other, so much so, that the authorities of the town have been obliged to intreat the commanders not to let any of their sailors come on shore together. The cause of these disputes is not known. It appears these vessels were together in the ports of Sicily, and that they keep up their quarrels in our gulph. The English pretend that the Americans have seduced one of their sailors, and that the man had sold to an American some powder and arms belonging to the ship.

COPENHAGEN, Nov. 26.

According to a letter from Tangier, of the 1st. October, the corn harvest in the empire of Morocco has been uncommonly productive but the exportation of corn is prohibited.

BRUSSELS Dec. 9.

Mr. Pike, of Flanders, in a speech delivered on the 6th, in the Assembly of the States, said, that the crop of wheat, barley, rye, and oats, has been not less abundant this year in almost all the provinces than in common years.

A Brief Account of a Melancholy Event, which lately occurred at Rochester Bridge, on the River Medway, England.

On Friday the 15th of Sept. 1816, Thomas, son of the late Mr. Gilbert, of Chatham, having attained his 21st year, a party was formed to enjoy the pleasure of a fine after-

noon in a water excursion: it consisted of a gentleman, his wife, and child, and 12 other young persons, from 6 to 21 years of age.

The party walked to Rochester about three o'clock, and took the water above the bridge, from whence they proceeded up the river and went as far as Halling, where they passed the afternoon, in the most social and harmless hilarity; little anticipating the fatal doom which so speedily awaited them; and, after taking tea re-entered their boat, in order to return. On leaving Halling, they passed away the time, and amused themselves by singing hymns, as the boat glided down the stream. On approaching Rochester Bridge, many persons were arrested in their progress, and stopped to listen to the joyous harmony of the happy party, rendered more melodious by the serenity of the evening. It was particularly remarked, that the hymn they were singing, as they approached the fatal spot was that interesting piece which concludes with the following verse:

"The hour is near, consign'd to death,
I own the just decree.
Saviour with my last parting breath,
I'll cry, Remember me."

This was their theme when they approached the bridge. The boat shot under the arch with the velocity of lightning, the tide being about half ebb, at which time it dashed through the arches of the bridge with immense force, and the depth of about four feet.

In a moment a sudden crash was heard, and one general heart piercing shriek of agony announced to the trembling passengers above, the dreadful work of desolation. A beam at that time about a foot under water, against which the boat had struck, was the cause of the accident. On looking over the balustrades, nothing was seen but the boat driving over the boiling surges, with its keel upwards, and a little dog which was fastened to it by a string. Nothing was heard but the roaring of the waters. Thus in a moment, were engulfed fifteen persons, who, in the innocent enjoyment of that pleasure which youth, health, and religion bestows, were suddenly consigned to a watery grave. Not one was saved—every soul instantaneously perished.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

The new Insolvent Bill passed the Senate with amendments on Friday last. The House has concurred in the amendments, and the bill only awaits the sanction of the Council of Revision to become a law.

The passengers in the ship *Minerva*, captain Sketchley arrived in town yesterday forenoon. They left the ship on Wednesday in-side of Sandy-Hook, and walked on

the ice to Amboy. They sailed from Liverpool on the 19th of December. Something of the state of the markets may be gathered from the following extracts, from a Liverpool circular letter and prices current of the 14th of December.

"Until the end of the last month, the demand for grain and flour continued very brisk, and the prices were materially advanced. Since the commencement of the present month, however, the demand has greatly fallen off, attended, as is always the case, with a depression in the value. Our quotations, however, are still above those which we gave in our circular of November.—Arrivals of American sweet flour, are now almost daily expected, when the value of this article will be ascertained. Cotton, Sea-Island, 2s. 1d. to 2s.; stained, 18d. to 23.; Uplands, 18d. to 20d.; New-Orleans, 18d. to 22d.—There has been but a limited business done in cottons this week; the sales amount only to about 1600 bags. Ashes, pot, 55 to 56; pearls, 71 to 73. Rice, in bond, 45 to 46.—Tar, 17s. Turpentine, 17s. 6d. Wheat, American, none; English, per 70 lbs. 19 to 21s. Flour, American barrel, none; English flour, for 280 lbs. 110 to 115s."

One of the passengers in the Minerva, informs that the ship Harlequin, from New-York, arrived at Liverpool on the 17th of December, after being ashore, and her cargo of flour was sold, the same day, from 73 to 78s. per bbl. Sailed from Liverpool in company with the ship Columbus, and the brig Peter-Ellis, both for New-York, and the William, Ezra, and Venerable, for Charleston, and one other vessel for a southern port. Left the Caroline-Ann, to sail in a few days for New-York. The ship Fame was to sail from London about the 20th of December, for New-York. The Hyder-Ally sailed for New-York on the 8th December. January 28th, lat. 44, 42, spoke the ship Edward Foster, from Charleston for Amsterdam. Passengers in the Minerva—Messrs. Parish, Cliff, Connell, of Philadelphia, Speakman, Goodwin, Hills, Wilson, Ogden and Smith.—*E. Post.*

Shipwreck—The brig Pilot, Wing, which arrived yesterday from Marseilles, fell in with on the 8th of Feb. in lat. 31, lon. 73, the wreck of the sloop Columbia of New-York, from Norfolk for Charleston, and took off five persons, viz: the mate, two seamen and two passengers. A brig bound to Philadelphia had taken off three, two men and one woman—Three women and a child aged 17 months and three men had perished. Those taken off the wreck had been on it six days. An hermaphrodite brig passed in sight of the wreck the day before, and plainly saw the deplorable situation of the people on it, but did not go to their relief—She first lowered her

topsails, hoisted her colours, and waved their hats, to the sufferers on the wreck, then, unaccountable as it may seem, run up her topsails again and stood off. The five men when taken from the wreck were all lashed together, and could not have survived another night.—*ib*

From the Albany Gazette of Monday.

His Excellency the Governor, on Friday, took an affectionate leave of the Council of Revision, previous to his resigning the office of Chief Magistrate of this state, and taking upon him the office of Vice-President of the United States, to which he has recently been elected.

The Assembly held no session on Saturday last, having on Friday adjourned over to this day, in order to pay a proper tribute of respect to the birth day of the man, "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Several of the military companies were on duty on Saturday; and at 12 o'clock a federal salute was fired in honour of the day.

The amount of duties paid by the auctioneers of the city of New-York into the state treasury, during the year 1816, amounted to 159,159 dollars and 83 cents. One house (C. Town & Co.) paid upwards of 50,000 dollars.

From the Albany Argus of Tuesday.

On Friday, sundry documents were submitted to the Senate by Mr. Van Buren, relative to the number, sufferings, &c. of the imprisoned debtors in the gaol in the city of New-York, which were ordered to be printed.

No. 1, is a certificate of James Bell, keeper of the debtor's gaol, and under sheriff in N. York, which states, that there were committed to that prison, during the last year, for debt, *nine hundred and eighty four different persons*; and that there are now confined in said gaol and on its limits, *six hundred debtors and upwards*!

No. 2, a certificate of the same, corroborated by Sheriff Hubbard that during the last year, there were committed to said prison for *debts under twenty five dollars, seven hundred and twenty nine persons*? that nearly all of them must have STARVED, but for the bounties of the Humane Society and individual charity, and that he is compelled to beg for fuel for them to keep them from freezing.

No. 3, certificate of the same, that there were committed to said gaol, during 1816, for debts under \$50, *one thousand one hundred and ninety nine persons*.

No. 4, narrates the case of Dius Lyman, imprisoned three years, and until he died, for a debt under \$50, during the whole of which time he was fed by the Humane Society.

No. 5, relates to the case of George Riley, imprisoned nearly six years for \$50, and subsisted upon charity.

No. 6, narrates the case of Paul Harrison, imprisoned for \$25, who died in gaol.

No. 7, states, that 30 of the debtors now confined have each a wife, and in the whole 73 children.

The two other documents relate to the excessive bail being required of William Coe, and to some cases of peculiar hardship and suffering.

IN ASSEMBLY, Feb. 24, 1817.

GOVERNOR TOMPKINS' RESIGNATION.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the Assembly of the State of New-York—

Having received official information of my election to the office of vice president of the United States, I surrender, through their representatives, to the people of this state, the office of their chief magistrate.

Whether the influence of my official conduct on the prosperity, the security, and the character of New-York may be regarded in a favourable or unfavorable light, I shall always bear with the highest gratification, that those that may succeed in the administration of its government shall far excel me in advancing the interest and the honour of the state.

A crowd of sensations are awakened by announcing this my separation from officers, legislators, and citizens, with whom I have been so long associated, and who have yielded to me, on all occasions, the greatest kindness, assistance and respect. When I call to mind that I was distinguished at an early age by a preference far beyond my merits, and reflect on the violent party collisions with which this state has been unfortunately too often agitated during my administration; when I recollect the national difficulties and distress occasioned by the war in which we have been engaged, and call to mind the unbounded confidence, support, and indeed parental solicitude, with which they sustained me in the midst of those most trying scenes of my public life, and, at the same time, reflect how inadequate and feeble have been my greatest exertions and my utmost devotion to their interests to repay the obligation, my heart is overwhelmed with emotions which I have no power to express.

I shall bear with me through life a glowing recollection of the affection and gratitude I owe to the people of the state of New-York; and that they may be blessed with perpetual happiness, prosperity and liberty, will ever be the warmest wish of my heart.

DANIEL D. TOMPKINS.

Albany, Feb. 24, 1817.

From the National Intelligencer, Feb. 24

Among the numerous visitors at present at

the seat of government, are major-general Brown, of the army, and commodore Bainbridge, of the navy.

Every senator of the United States is, at the present moment, at his post; in number thirty eight. This is an evidence of exclusive attention to public duties, not often witnessed.

CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.—FEBRUARY 20.

Mr. Mason, of Va. presented the petition of the Union Bank of Alexandria, asking for a charter, and of the Farmers Bank of Alexandria, praying for an extension of their charter; which were referred to the committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. Tait, from the naval committee, reported a bill for the relief of the legal representatives of John I. Yarnall; which passed to a second reading.

Mr. Tait, from the same committee, made an unfavourable report on the memorial of Edward Shubrick and other officers of the late U. S. brig Chippewa.

The motion of Mr. Goldsborough, yesterday submitted, was resumed; and on motion of Mr. Barbour, was postponed to a day beyond the session.

The motion yesterday submitted by Mr. Williams calling for papers respecting Spanish affairs, was considered and agreed to.

The motion yesterday submitted by Mr. Fromentin, was considered and agreed to.

The reports of the committee of claims made on yesterday, were considered and agreed to.

The bill from the House of Representatives, "concerning the navigation of the United States," was considered, amended, and ordered to a third reading.

The bill to set apart and dispose of certain lands for the encouragement of the cultivation of the vine and other exotic plants, was considered and ordered to be read a third time, 29 Yeas to 5 Nays.

[Those who voted in the negative were Messrs. Daggett, Hardin, Mason, of N. H. Ruggles and Smith.]

FRIDAY, FEB. 21.

Mr. Williams reported from the military committee, a bill to secure in certain cases the bounty in land to the heirs of deceased soldiers.

Mr. Campbell, from the committee on finance, reported a bill to continue in force an act further to provide for the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, passed 3d of March, 1815, and for other purposes.

Mr. Chace reported a bill providing additional compensation to the Circuit Judge of the Sixth Circuit of the United States.

Mr Campbell reported the general appropriation bill, with amendments.

The report yesterday made by Mr. Tait, was considered and agreed to.

The bill to establish a separate territorial government in the Eastern part of the Mississippi Territory, was read a third time and passed.

The bill to encourage the cultivation of the vine and other exotics, was read a third time and passed.

The bill concerning the navigation of the United States, was read a third time and passed.

[The amendments to this bill yet require the concurrence of the other house.]

The proposition to reduce the Army to five thousand men was resumed, but on motion of Mr. Williams, it was further postponed to Monday.

The consideration of the bill to preserve more effectually the neutral relations of the United States with foreign powers, was resumed; when, on motion of Mr. Barbour, the bill was recommitted to the Committee of Foreign Relations.

Eight bills received from the House of Representatives, were read a first time, and some of them read a second time, and committed.

The bill to provide for the purchase and distribution of eight hundred additional copies of the new edition of the Laws of the United States, was ordered to a third reading.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill to provide for the appointment of Hospital Surgeons and Hospital Surgeon's Mates in the Navy of the U. States; which, on motion of Mr. Lacock, was postponed to a day beyond the session.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22.

Mr. Williams, from the military committee, reported a bill to amend the act organizing a general staff, and making further provision for the army of the U. States.

Mr. Mason of Va. reported a bill to incorporate the subscribers to certain Banks in the District of Columbia, and also a bill to extend the charters of certain Banks in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Tait, agreeably to notice, leave being given, introduced a bill to alter the time for the next meeting of Congress.

Mr. Noble, from the committee on public lands, reported a bill giving the right of pre-emption in the purchase of a tract of land in the reservation at the Lower Rapids of Sandusky.

The bill to set apart certain lands for the purpose of securing a supply of live oak timber for the Navy, was resumed, and ordered to a third reading, as were two or three other small bills.

The bills yesterday ordered to a third reading, were read a third time and passed.

The bill from the other House directing

the application of the bonus and profits of the United States stock in the National Bank, to the purpose of Internal Improvement, was set apart and made the Order of the Day for Tuesday next.

The bill for the relief of Park Holland, was ordered to a third reading.

Considerable other business was done, of which the particulars were not ascertained in time for this paper.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22.

Mr. Cannon moved that the several orders of the day be postponed to Monday, and that the House proceed to the consideration of the resolution offered by him some weeks ago, to reduce the army; which motion was negatived—ayes 39, noes, 69.

The following engrossed bills were severally read the third time, passed and sent to the Senate, to wit:

The bill concerning Invalid Pensioners;

The bill to amend the act making further provision for military services during the late war; and

The bill concerning the pay and emoluments of brevet officers.

The last named bill was very earnestly opposed by Mr. Harrison, who contended for a compensation corresponding to their brevet rank, to those officers who, by their eminent services, had received the distinction of brevet promotion, and cited cases in which services had been so essential and so brilliant, as to have been rewarded with two brevets, and some instances in which a captain in the line was a Lieut. Colonel, by brevet, which rank ought to be supported by suitable emoluments.

The bill from the Senate for the relief of Com. Richard Taylor, was read the third time, as amended by the committee, and passed.

Mr. Goldsborough, from the committee appointed on the 20th instant, to present a resolution to the President of the United States, requesting him to report to the next session of Congress the best practical mode of defending the waters of the Chesapeake, reported that the committee had performed that duty, and that the President answered it would not be in his power to comply with the request of the resolution, but that he had no doubt his successor would pay all due attention to it.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Condict in the chair, on the bill to amend the act granting bounties in land to certain Canadian volunteers. [Providing that no bounty shall be given to any of the said volunteers, except where it shall appear they have served the full term of ——— months, and whose name shall appear on the muster roll of the said

corps, except prevented by wounds received in battle, &c.—and instead of the mode of granting the bounty directed by the former act, to allow a bounty of ——— acres, agreeably to rank.]

This bill occupied a good deal of time, and gave rise to a considerable debate, partly on the policy of having granted the bounty at all, so widely discussed at the last session;—but principally on the details of the bill, and the proper steps to prevent the frauds which it appears have been so extensively attempted by persons not entitled to the benefit of the act of last session. After the adoption of various amendments, the committee rose and reported the bill, which was then ordered to be engrossed as amended.

The same committee of the whole reported, without amendment, the bill granting donations of land to the disbanded officers of the late army, and then the bill was, on motion of Mr. Cannon, laid on the table.

After an attempt by Mr. Yancey, which he afterwards withdrew, to discharge the committee of the whole house from the further consideration of the bills to establish an Invalid Corps, and for authorizing additional Military Academies, for the purpose of having them laid on the table:—

The House adjourned.

[The following is re-published, by particular request, from Rivington's Gazette, 8th Sept. 1780.]

The following is an extract from a letter which appeared in the Pennsylvania Gazette, dated Oct. 25. The author, supposed to be colonel Hamilton, Aid-de-Camp to the rebel general Washington. Writing of the ever amiable ANDRE, continues—

Never, perhaps, did a man suffer death with more justice, or deserve it less. The first step he took after his capture was to write a letter to general Washington, conceived in terms of dignity without insolence and apology without meanness. The scope of it was to vindicate himself from the imputation of having assumed a mean character, for treacherous or interested purposes: That, contrary to his intention, which was to meet a person for intelligence, on neutral ground, he had been betrayed within our posts, and forced into the vile condition of an enemy in disguise; soliciting only, that to whatever rigour policy might devote him, a decency of treatment might be observed, due to a person, who, though unfortunate, had been guilty of nothing dishonourable. His request was granted in its full extent; for, in the whole progress of the affair, he was treated with the most scrupulous delicacy. When brought before the board of officers, he met with every mark of indulgence, and was requested to answer no interrogatory which could even embarrass his feelings. On his part, while he carefully concealed every thing that might involve others, he frankly confessed all the facts relating to him; and upon his confession, without the trouble of examining a witness, the Board made their report. The members of it were not more impressed with the candour and modest firmness, mixed with a becoming sen-

sibility, which he displayed, than he was penetrated with their liberality and politeness. He acknowledged the generosity of their behaviour towards him in every respect, but particularly in this, in the strongest terms of manly gratitude. In a conversation with a gentleman who visited him after his trial, he said: he flattered himself he had never been illiberal, but if there were any remains of prejudice in his mind his present experience must obliterate them.

In one of the visits I made to him (and I saw him several times during his confinement) he begged me to be the bearer of a request to the general, for permission to send an open letter to Sir Henry Clinton. "I foresee my fate, said he, and though I pretend not to play the hero, or be indifferent about life, yet I am reconciled to whatever may happen, conscious that misfortune, not guilt, will have brought it upon me. There is only one thing that disturbs my tranquility. Sir Henry Clinton has been too good to me, he has been lavish of his kindness. I am bound to him by too many obligations, and love him too well to bear the thought that he should reproach himself, or that others should reproach him, on a supposition that I had conceived myself obliged, by his instructions to run the risk I did. I would not for the world leave a sting in his mind that should embitter his future days." He could scarce finish the sentence, bursting into tears in spite of his efforts to suppress them, and with difficulty collected himself enough afterwards to add, "I wish to be permitted to assure him I did not act under this impression, but submitted to a necessity imposed upon me, as contrary to my own inclination as to his orders." His request was readily complied with and he wrote the letter annexed, with which I dare say you will be as much pleased as I am, both for the diction and sentiment.

When his sentence was announced to him, he remarked, that since it was his lot to die, as there was a choice in the mode which would make material difference to his feelings, he would be happy, if it were possible to be indulged with a professional death. He made a second application by letter, in concise, but persuasive terms. It was thought this indulgence, being incompatible with the customs of war, could not be granted; and it was therefore determined in both cases to evade an answer, to spare him the sensations which a certain knowledge of the intended mode would inflict.

When he was led out to the place of execution, as he went along he bowed familiarly to all those with whom he had been acquainted in his confinement. A smile of complacency expressed the serene fortitude of his mind. Arrived at the fatal spot he asked with this emotion, "Must I then die in this manner?" He was told it had been unavoidable. "I am reconciled to my fate, (said he) but not to the mode." Soon, however, recollecting himself he added, "It will be but a momentary pang;" and springing upon the cart, performed the last offices to himself, with a composure that excited the admiration, and melted the hearts of the beholders. Upon being told the final moment was at hand, and asked if he had any thing to say, he answered, "Nothing, but to request you will witness to the world that I die like a brave man." Among the extraordinary circumstances that attended him, in the midst of his enemies, he died universally esteemed and universally respected.

There was something singularly interesting in the character and fortunes of Andre. To an excellent understanding well improved by education and travel, he united a peculiar elegance of mind and manners, and the advantages of a pleasing person. It is said he possessed a pretty taste for the fine arts, and had himself attained some proficiency in poetry, music and painting. His knowledge appeared without ostentation, and embellished by a diffidence that rarely accompanies so many talents and accomplishments, which left you to suppose more than appeared. His sentiments were elevated, and inspired esteem; they had a softness that conciliated affection. His elocution was handsome, his address easy, polite and insinuating. By his merit he had acquired the confidence of his general, and was making a rapid progress in military rank and reputation. But in the height of his career, flushed with new hopes from the execution of a project, the most beneficial to his party that could be devised, he is at once precipitated from the summit of prosperity, sees all the expectations of his ambition blasted, and himself ruined.

The character I have given him is drawn partly from what I saw of him myself, and partly from information. I am aware that a man of real merit is never seen in so favorable a light, as through the medium of adversity. The clouds that surround him are so many shades that set off his good qualities. Misfortune cuts down little vanities, that in prosperous times serve as so many spots in his virtues, and gives a tone of humility that makes his worth more amiable. His spectators who enjoyed a happier lot, are less prone to detract from its true envy; and are more disposed by compassion to give him the credit he deserved, and perhaps even to magnify it.

I speak not of Andre's conduct in this affair as a philosopher, but as a man of the world. The authorised maxims and practices of war are the satyrs of human nature. They countenance almost every species of seduction as well as violence; and the general who can make most traitors in the army of his adversary, is frequently most applauded. On this scale we acquit Andre, while we could not but condemn him, if we were to examine his conduct by the sober rules of philosophy and moral rectitude.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1.

We have several times alluded to the effort making in Virginia, to amend the constitution of that state, so as to render the right of suffrage more general, and to equalize the representation in their legislature. We have watched the progress of this attempt with considerable interest, from a disposition to see in what manner the politicians of that state would conduct, in a case which threatened them with an experiment in the practical effects of the modern notions of the rights of man, which they have so often and so loudly recommended to the rest of the world. With a system of government formed, in several particulars, upon the principles of a genuine aristocracy, whilst they have enjoyed its peculiar benefits in forwarding their ambitious views, they have recommended to their neighbours a very different theory, and

have doubtless been much pleased to see, in the other parts of the country, their doctrines producing a very different practice. One of the dearest of the "rights of man," according to modern notions, is the right of suffrage.—In many of the states, it is enjoyed by the whole body of the male population. This, according to the refined and sublimated theories of our most sublimated democracy, is the true principle. They do, indeed, sometimes limit its exercise to those who pay taxes, or do military duty in the militia, and sometimes they even talk of the necessity of a *good moral character*. However, this is a departure from the principles of their system, because if you can qualify it in one instance, you may in every instance, and it at once becomes a question of *political expediency*—which is at war with the whole theory. The man who is too poor to pay taxes, or too infirm to do militia duty, has still much interest in the laws and government—he wants protection against oppression, and security for his person, as much as the man of rank and affluence. And if a good moral character be a requisite qualification, it is as much so in the case of the rich man, as that in the poor man.

In Virginia they have never suffered their system to be weakened, or contaminated, by the fanciful principles of modern theorists.—They have, indeed, been perfectly contented to see Maryland, and many other states, adopt them, while *at home*, they have rigidly adhered to the doctrine of *the mother country*, that the right of suffrage was *the exclusive privilege of the freholder*. The attempt is now making, however, to bring to their business and bosoms the benefits of that democracy, which they have so faithfully inculcated and recommended, in every possible mode, *except that of example*. The majority of the people of that state are loudly demanding their share in the general privilege, and the aristocracy of the "OLD DOMINION" is shaking with fear at the approaches of such a terrific attack upon their influence, and ambition.

We have been led to this train of remarks, by having seen in some of the papers, part of a long essay from Mr. Giles, on the subject of the attempts at reform in the government of Virginia. This gentleman, from the organization of the national government, through the period of the federal Administration, and the halcyon days of Mr. Jefferson, was the most hair-brained politician in this country. He appeared to have adopted the wild and ridiculous theories of Tom Paine, and the French Atheistical Republicans, and laboured with all his might to introduce a large portion of them into the public affairs of the United States. If we were to name the man, who, after Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison, had done the most mischief to the country by the

propagation of false and pernicious principles of government, it would be Mr. GILES.—But the attack on the strong hold of Virginia domination, seems to have awakened him from his dreams of Utopian democracy, and he is all alive to the dangers of reformation, and the benefits of experience and wisdom.

The following extract from the long and laboured essays to which we have alluded, will shew in what light he now views the notion of human perfectibility, which his great models of political and moral wisdom have so long and so zealously toiled to establish.

"The world is at this time awfully admonished of the horrible effects of political theories. Republican France discovered and proclaimed the "perfectability of man." The rage for amending our constitution is believed to be one effect of that discovery. If duly examined, it will be found to be intimately connected with it in all its essential consequences. Both proceed upon a flattering, but erroneous estimate of human nature. Both proceed upon the same theory; that of relaxing the restraints, which the experience of all times and of all nations has demonstrated, to be necessary for curbing the licentious vices of man. What effects has France experienced from indulging in this delightful vision? Precisely what we shall experience by adopting the same false theory; nor will any difference in the disguise, produce any difference in the effects.

"It is believed that the most zealous theorist amongst us, is more certain of the good effects of his own visions, than were the patriotic zealots of France, in their grand discovery of the perfectibility of man? A conception so flattering to human nature, as to silence the voice of truth, and frown down every effort of fair investigation. From pursuing one false theory after another, what has France suffered? and to what is she now reduced? Nay, in the very zenith of the practice, under this false theory; what an inconsistent spectacle did republican France exhibit to the world! At the same time proclaiming the perfectibility of man; and daily ending to the guillotine, hundreds of her wisest and best citizens, for imputed human imperfections; under accusations too, evidencing still greater human imperfections. Pause! reflect, "make assurance doubly sure," before you put at hazard the best government in the world, in the laudable, but vain hope of making it better."

Now let it be remembered, that the great object which stimulates Mr. Giles to make this mighty effort to check the progress of reformation in Virginia, is, the fear **THAT WITH THE LOSS OF THE ARISTOCRATIC FEATURES OF HER CONSTITUTION, SHE WILL LOSE HER ARISTOCRATIC INFLUENCE IN THE UNION, AND BE REDUCED TO AN EQUALITY WITH THE REST OF THE STATES.** We make this remark from the fullest conviction of its truth. The difficulty of keeping up the supremacy of that State encreases with every presidential election. It will not be so easy to bring up

another Virginian eight years hence, as it was to force Mr. Monroe upon the country.—This being the general state of things, every measure that is calculated to weaken the controuling force of the State, encreases the evil more or less, according to the nature of the measure itself. The proposed change in their State constitution would sink the influence of the "**RICHMOND CLUB,**" and place Virginia on a level with the other States.

The Legislature on Tuesday last, were principally occupied with the petitions for Banks at Geneva, Auburn and Sandy Hill. They all passed through the committee of the whole, and it is expected will finally pass the House. And on Wednesday were engaged in discussing the Steam-boat question—to repeal a part of the act of 1811; and on Mr. Pendleton's bill to prevent the issuing of small bills—no decision.

There were two alarms of fire in Albany on Wednesday last. A part of the Tobacco Manufactory of Caldwell & Solomons, at the north end of the town, was somewhat damaged and a small house in State-street, occupied as a grocery by Mr. Wayland, had part of the roof destroyed—the fire catching from a stove pipe which passed through it.

The Southern mail due on Tuesday evening, reached Albany on Wednesday at 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Hartford mail due on Tuesday night, had not arrived in Albany at 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening; and the mail from New-York had not reached Albany at 9 o'clock the same evening. The great fall of snow rendering the travelling very tedious and slow.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE SENATE.

To the Senate of the United States,

I transmit to the Senate a report of the Secretary of state, complying with their resolution of the 20th inst.

JAMES MADISON.

Eeb. 22, 1817.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

February 22d, 1817.

The Secretary of state, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 20th instant, requesting "the President to lay before the Senate a copy of the correspondence between the government of the United States and the government of Spain, relative to the subjects of controversy between the two nations, except such part as he may deem improper to disclose," has the honor to submit to the President the accompanying papers marked A, B, and C, as containing the information which may be supposed to be wanted.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JAS. MONROE.

(A)

*Copy of a letter from the Secretary of State to the
Chevalier de Onis, dated*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

January 14, 1817.

SIR—Having understood in our late conference that you would not agree to an arrangement, by which Spain should cede her claims to territory eastward of the Mississippi, unless the United States ceded their claims to all the territory westward of that river and that even then, your agreement would be restricted to a recommendation to your government to adopt an arrangement to that effect; it is deemed unnecessary to make you any further proposition, or to prolong the negotiation on the subject of limits.

I have now to request that you will have the goodness to inform me, whether you are willing to enter into a convention to provide compensation for spoliations, and for the injury resulting to the United States from the suppression of the deposite at New Orleans.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JAMES MONROE.

[Translation.]

Mr. Onis to the Secretary of State.

16th January, 1817.

SIR—I have received your official letter of the 14th inst. in which you are pleased to make known to me, that, having understood in our last conference, that I would not accede to an arrangement, by which Spain should cede her pretensions to the territory east of the Mississippi, if the United States did not relinquish theirs to the west of that river, and that, even in this case, my accession would be limited to recommending to my government the adoption of this project, it appeared to you useless to make me more propositions to prolong the negotiation on the subject of limits between the two governments; and you only desired to know if I was disposed to sign a convention, to provide compensation for the injuries occasioned to the United States by the cruizers of his majesty in the late war, and for those which resulted to the United States from the suppression of the deposite at New Orleans.

In answer to this letter, you will permit me to observe, that, in the conference referred to, I had the honor to exhibit to you the full powers of my sovereign, in which he authorizes me to negotiate and sign a treaty, or convention, with the United States, in which should be arranged not only the indemnities due to the subjects and citizens of both nations, for the injuries they had suffered from the last war between his majesty and Great Britain to the present, in contravention of the law of nations, and the existing treaty between the two powers, but also to fix the respective limits to the satisfaction of both. The intention of his majesty (and in this I believe the two governments agree) is not confined to a partial arrangement, which might leave in existence the disagreements which have unhappily arisen between them from the effect of circumstances. His majesty, fully convinced that no treaty or convention can be durable unless it is founded in equally and mutual convenience, has particularly directed me, that, keeping in mind the reciprocal, political and commercial interests which unite the two nations, I should so adjust the definitive arrangement with the person whom the President should authorize to that

effect, that no controversy could ever again arise between them.

I cannot conceal from you that to arrive at this end, it is indispensable to begin by amicably discussing and agreeing upon the rights of each of the two powers, and that the result of this discussion is, what ought to guide us in arranging the indemnities and fixing the limits which may be just and mutually convenient to the two nations. You had the goodness to say to me, that this method had been adopted by you and Mr. Cevallos, and that, if we renewed it, precious time would be lost without our being able to agree. In such a dilemma, and anxious to contribute on my part to accelerate the negotiation, I took the liberty to propose to you the only other method which appeared to me to exist, besides the one which I have just mentioned, to arrange these differences, which is this: that the two powers, throwing off all idea of aggrandizement, and sacrificing resentments and complaints of little importance, should proceed with good faith, to fix limits between them which should be mutually convenient, which should not be liable to controversy, or be unknown to, or violated by, the respective subjects of each.

You did me the honor to applaud a proposition so frank and liberal, as dictated by equity and good faith—and made known to me, with the same frankness, that the United States desired to unite to its dominions all the territories which belong to Spain to the east of the Mississippi; and that for them they would offer to Spain those which were between the Rio de Norte and the Colorado. But as not only these lands, but all those which lie between the Colorado and Cape North, drawing a line by the river Mermento, or Mermentao, towards the Presidio of Adais, and from thence by the Arroyo Ondá towards Natchitoches, are a part of the province of Texas, belonging to, and in the uninterrupted possession of, his majesty, without there having been, in relation thereto, any dispute between France and Spain, that dispute being solely as to Natchitoches, which fort the French raised, unjustly, in the territory of his catholic majesty; it results that this proposition not only does not offer compensation to his majesty for West and East Florida, whose session the United States intimate would be very agreeable to them, but it involves the relinquishment of the property and possession which his majesty has of the territory in the province of Texas, which lies between the Colorado and the vicinity of Natchitoches.

To propositions so distant from the equality and reciprocal convenience in which we have agreed to treat these affairs, I answered, that, as the powers of his majesty had been hastily sent to me, by Mr. Cevallos, to take advantage of the departure of Mr. Brent, I have not received express instructions touching the entire cession of the two Floridas, which the United States wished: and, although they prove to me the desire of his majesty to accommodate them in all arrangements which may be compatible with his interests, I saw myself obliged to wait for instructions on this point, of so much the greater importance, as it relates to the cession by his majesty to the United States of the port of Pensacola, which was the key of the Gulf

of Mexico, the best port of that Gulf, and which was the more necessary to his majesty for the security of his possessions; but that, in the mean time, if you should propose to me, on the part of this government, to make the Mississippi the frontier, I should see in that proposition a disposition on the part of the United States to offer some equivalent, and I would recommend it to the consideration of his majesty as a fixed and stable limit, to assure the peace and tranquility of the two nations.

I hope that you will recognise in this exposition, the sincerity and ingeniousness with which I proceed, and that you will, on a view of it, adopt, of the two modes proposed for setting on foot the negotiation, that which will be most agreeable to the United States. The first, that is to say, that of discussing and agreeing upon the reciprocal rights and pretensions of the two nations, is the safest, and that which ought to conduct us, with the greatest precision, to the indemnities and to the establishment of limits between them, since nothing is more easy than that, each point of justice being agreed upon, the equivalent to it should be arranged upon principles of equality and reciprocal convenience. The second is shorter, but it requires a relinquishment of all views of aggrandizement on both sides, and that each government, adopting as a basis the *uti possidetis*, either of the year 1792, which is the one fixed on by the allied courts in the general pacification for the recognition of the right of property in their possessions, or that of the year 1763, after the conclusion of the treaty of peace between Spain, France and England, in which treaty the limits of their provinces were fixed, and the two Floridas were separated, the East from Spain and the West from France, by transferring them in full sovereignty to England, they may come to a just and friendly understanding, so as to do away these disagreements. I am ready to discuss with you in the first mode just referred to. I am, also, ready to treat with you by adopting the second: and I flatter myself that I shall, in either case, give you proofs that I will not depart from what is due to justice, equality, and the mutual convenience of the two nations.

I renew to you, &c.

LUIS DE ONIS.

Copy of a letter from the Secretary of State, to the Chevalier de Onis, dated

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

January 25, 1817.

SIR—I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 16th, in reply to mine of the 14th of this month.

It having been the invariable desire of the United States to settle all differences with Spain on just and fair conditions; it is seen

with much regret, that a similar disposition is not manifested on the part of your government.

Finding by your letter, that I had distinctly understood the views of your government, as explained by you, in your late conference, and stated in my last letter; and perceiving also, that you still adhere to those views, which, being altogether inconsistent with the rights of the U. States; are inadmissible; I have to repeat, that this government has no motive to continue the negotiation, on the subject of boundaries.

In making this frank declaration, I cannot avoid expressing my surprise, that you should now find it necessary to refer again to your government, for instructions on any part of this subject. These differences have long existed, and, as far back as 1805, were fully discussed, as you readily admitted, in every circumstance appearing to, or connected with them, in a special mission to Madrid for the purpose. It was hoped and expected, on the restoration of the diplomatic intercourse between the two nations, that you would have been invested with full power to settle them; and, it was in accord with your views, when this was found not to be the case, that the requisite authority was given to the minister plenipotentiary of the United States at Madrid. It could not have been doubted, as your government had not authorized its minister to bring these controversies to a conclusion, that the minister of the United States would have been promptly met in his offers to effect it at Madrid. I need not repeat to you the great disappointment which the President felt, when, after the lapse of so much time, he was informed, that an expression of regret in my letter to you of the 10th of June, at the delay resulting from your want of powers, and from the necessity of transferring the negotiation to Madrid, had been misconstrued into a desire that it should be transferred again to the United States. On examining, however, the tenor of your commission, and the communications between Mr. Erving and Mr. Cevallos, both of which seemed to contemplate a prompt conclusion of the business here; the idea now brought forward in your letter of a further resort to your government for other instructions, was surely the last to enter into the anticipations of this government.

It is proper to add, that I understood you to coincide in our late conference, fully with me, in the sentiment, that any further discussion of subjects, which had been already so often discussed and completely exhausted, would be useless, since it could not be presumed that any change of opinion on any point, would take place on either side. Each party understands its rights, and has, doubtless, made up its mind as to the conditions it is willing to adopt. To those suggested by

you, as being worthy the consideration of your government, this government cannot agree.

Under these circumstances, I have again to request that you will do me the honor to inform me, whether you are willing to conclude a convention, to provide indemnity for spoliations, and the suppression of the deposit at New Orleans, as mentioned in my last letter.

I have the honor to be,

With the most perfect consideration,

Sir, Your very obedient servant.

JAMES MONROE.

[Translation.]

Mr. Onís to the Secretary of State.

10th February, 1817.

SIR—I have received the official letter which you did me honor to address to me, under the date of the 25th of last month, stating that, notwithstanding the desire the President had to adjust all differences between Spain and the United States on just conditions, and to their mutual convenience, it was seen, with great regret, that a like disposition was not manifested on the part of Spain.

You support this opinion on the ground that I adhere to the same sentiments which my government manifested in former times; and also, that the President, seeing the powers with which his majesty had been pleased to honor me, could not comprehend why I should think it necessary to recur to my sovereign to obtain new instructions. You will permit me to observe, that the number of privateers armed in the ports of this country, to cruise under an unknown flag against Spanish commerce, have obstructed in such a manner the communications between the Peninsula and these states, that the accidental circumstance of Mr. Brent's having taken charge of the duplicates of his Majesty's powers, has alone obtained for me the receipt of them, and that I am even yet without the originals: with which, doubtless, his majesty sent me instructions, and communicated to me his reasons for transferring the negotiation here. I can assure you I am entirely ignorant of what has passed in Madrid between Mr. Erving and Cevallos, and that I am not less so of the motives which have induced his majesty to transfer the discussion here, notwithstanding I had informed him, that I had myself proposed to you that authority and instructions should be given to Mr. Erving in relation to it, it being clear to me, that his majesty desired nothing with more anxiety than to see an affair terminated, which must be the precursor of reciprocal intimacy, which should be established between the two governments, for the mutual benefit of their respective subjects and citizens.

If I might be permitted to conjecture the

motives which have induced his majesty to transfer the negotiation here, I believe I should not mistake in designating, as the principal one of them, the knowledge his majesty has of your talents, of your justice, (justification) and of the conciliatory disposition which you manifested in your conferences with Mr. Cevallos, to concur in the settlement of these discussions; and, as the second, this: that, in the moment of the arrival of the queen, his august spouse, and of the festivities incident to this happy event, his majesty could not give the attention which was requisite to these affairs, which he considered of the first importance. You are too just not to appreciate these motives, and not to see in them any thing but a new proof of the anxiety of his majesty to avoid all delay or inactivity. The President, informed by you of these motives, will I flatter myself, form the same opinion, and see the necessity of my waiting for the necessary instructions from my sovereign, before I subscribe to the points which ought to form the basis of this treaty. The short delay which may result from this, will be amply compensated for and with mutual advantage, if you would place me in a situation to inform my government of the principal points on which the government of the United States wish to see this negotiation turn. You know that as yet you have only made known to me, in our first conference, that if we were to go into a discussion of the rights of the two powers, as was done by you and Mr. Cevallos, much time would be lost, and each of us would retain his opinion. You know that I agreed to this: but at the same time intimated, that I saw no other more certain mode of accomplishing the object which the two powers had in view, since it must be with a knowledge of the respective rights of each party that we ought to begin in fixing the indemnities and compensations, which belonged to each, on the principles of equity, justice, and convenience; and that the only way of avoiding this, and of shortening the negotiation, would be, that the two powers, giving up all pretensions and all idea of rivalry or aggrandisement, should agree between themselves, in good faith, to fix their limits according to equity, justice, and mutual convenience, so that they should not be liable to be violated by the subjects of the one or the other, and in a way to avoid the renewal of the complaints which had given rise to misunderstandings. You approved an idea so liberal, so generous and so demonstrative of the disposition of the king, my master, to accommodate the United States in whatever might be agreeable to them, if not incompatible with his interests; and, in consequence, you made known to me, that the United States wished to unite to their dominions the two Floridas. As in the former negotiations, the cession of West Florida, to

the Rio Perdido, was alone spoken of, and as his majesty was ignorant of the new desires of this government, I said to you, that although I did not positively know, whether his majesty would deprive himself of East Florida, and of the important port of Pensacola, which was the key of the Gulf of Mexico, yet the desire of his majesty to gratify this government was great, and that it was very probable he might agree to do it, provided that, on the part of the United States, there should be offered to him a just equivalent, and one of reciprocal convenience.

I leave to your impartiality and justice, and to that of the whole world, to say, if, on the part of his majesty, a more positive proof is wanting of the interest which he takes in arranging these affairs in a friendly manner, and, if I should not find myself more authorized to doubt of equal dispositions on the part of the United States, in consequence of the proposition which you made me, not only of not giving any thing in exchange for the two provinces, the cession of which the U. States desire, but requiring that his majesty should cede to them a part of another, which has been in the uninterrupted possession of his majesty for more than two hundred years.

I am, nevertheless, very far from judging it thus. A firm and permanent arrangement of all points of difference, is equally useful and necessary to both nations. It ought to fix the basis of the happiness of their respective subjects and citizens; and, to obtain this, it ought necessarily to be founded in justice, equity and mutual convenience. His majesty is disposed to conclude it on these terms; and he has too much confidence in the well known rectitude of this administration to think that it could solicit it on other terms.

You are pleased also to inform me, in your esteemed note, that to the propositions which I have suggested as worthy of the consideration of my government, that of the U. States cannot agree; and that abandoning the arrangement of limits, you desire only to know if I am disposed to sign a convention for settling the injury sustained by the American commerce, and by the suppression of the deposit of New-Orleans.

As the propositions which I have made to you were confined solely to the leaving to your election whether we should treat, by discussing and fixing in a friendly manner the respective rights of each power, to the end that, having agreed to them, and the obligations of each upon the other being known, the compensation to which each may be entitled might be settled: or that, leaving things to remain in the state they were, we might agree in a friendly manner as to what would suit each—I cannot conceive that the U. States should be of opinion that they cannot agree to any of these points.

I would offend my own delicacy if, after being assured by you that the U. States were disposed to terminate all the differences which exist between the two nations by a treaty founded on justice, equity and mutual convenience, I could believe that the United States would repel the only means which, in my opinion, exist to arrive at this end. I judge, then that I have not explained myself with sufficient clearness, or that I have not well comprehended you; and I again renew my propositions in a plain, clear and demonstrative manner, giving you an example which you cannot but find just.

[To be continued.]

ALBANY, Feb. 25.

The message of resignation of Governor Tompkins, was referred to a joint committee, consisting of Messrs. Ford, Emott, Sargeant, Joseph Smith and G. Miller of the Assembly, and Messrs. Van Buren, Livingston and Allen of the Senate.

The committee this morning asked, and obtained leave to report by bill, without expressing an opinion on the constitutionality of an election for Governor at the ensuing election in April next. The bill provides for an election. The subject is, therefore, before the Legislature, and will, I have no doubt, be speedily acted on.

The bill for the encouragement of manufactures within this state, which passed the Senate some weeks since, passed the Assembly this morning on its third reading.

BILLS PASSED.—Bill authorising the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty, of the city of N. York, to take possession of certain lands.

The following resolution was on Tuesday last, moved in the House of Assembly, by Mr. Barnes, of Oneida, and was adopted by the House.

Whereas a Petition has been presented to this House signed by Samuel Cooper and others, praying the Legislature to pass a law to annex a part of the county of Montgomery to the County of Herkimer—and whereas it is alledged that the names of a great number of the subscribers are twice, some three, some four times and one five times so affixed to said Petition; that the names of sundry persons have been subscribed thereto without their consent and that many other names have been cut off from petitions for purposes different from the one contemplated by the petitioners and annexed without their consent to the said petition. And whereas the Bill of rights of this state has wisely secured to all its inhabitants the right of Petitioning of the Legislature, which right ought to be protected from violation and abuse.

Therefore, Resolved that the committee of Privileges and Elections be instructed to inquire into the truth of said allegations, and if true, to Report to this House who has been guilty of a breach of the privileges thereof in abusing the right to petition in the premises.